

FALL 2011

CAMERON

MAGAZINE

Afghanistan

Its Complexities And Relevance

2011-2012 Academic Festival

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Dr. Khaled Hosseini • Steve Coll • Chuck Hagel
Robin Wright • Gen. (Ret.) Stanley A. McChrystal



Message from the President

Dear Alumni and Friends:

The 2011-2012 academic year promises to be another exciting year for Cameron University. Cameron remains committed to being the University of Choice for Southwest Oklahoma and beyond—providing unique experiences for Cameron’s students, developing meaningful partnerships with the Southwest Oklahoma community, and providing the right location to meet the needs of all whom the university serves—a pursuit we relish!

Construction continues to transform the landscape of Cameron University. A section of University Drive will permanently close and be grafted into Bentley Gardens. This renovation will link Cameron Village to the heart of campus with walkways that provide students safer travel. Construction will be completed by the fall semester.

Renovations have also begun to transform the former Student Union into the Academic Commons, a facility that will house Cameron’s Convergence Journalism option, a multi-disciplinary tutoring center, computer laboratories, the IT Help Desk, an adjunct faculty office suite, and modern classrooms. The Academic Commons will join other campus buildings such as the McMahon Centennial Complex, University Library, and the McMahon Fine Arts Complex and offer extended hours of operation serving CU students late into the evening and on weekends.

Certainly a highlight of the 2011-2012 academic year is Cameron’s triennial Academic Festival. The Academic Festival is a dynamic, privately funded, year-long symposium which explores a topic worthy of in-depth study. Guest speakers, campus-wide activities, seminars, special events, and cross-curricular emphasis in the classroom are strategically planned to support the study of the Festival’s topic. The topic chosen for the 2011-2012 Academic Festival is Afghanistan: Its Complexities and Relevance. See page 16 for the lineup of guest speakers and more information.

While much is changing at Cameron, one thing remains constant and unwavering: Cameron’s commitment to providing its students a quality education. At Cameron, student learning is our top priority, and this past academic year Cameron received confirmation of the quality of its education when the university received an unprecedented review by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The Commission recommended an unconditional continuation of Cameron’s accreditation. Additionally, the HLC called Cameron a role model institution that is future-oriented and learner-focused. The accreditation report was the best in Cameron’s 102-year history.

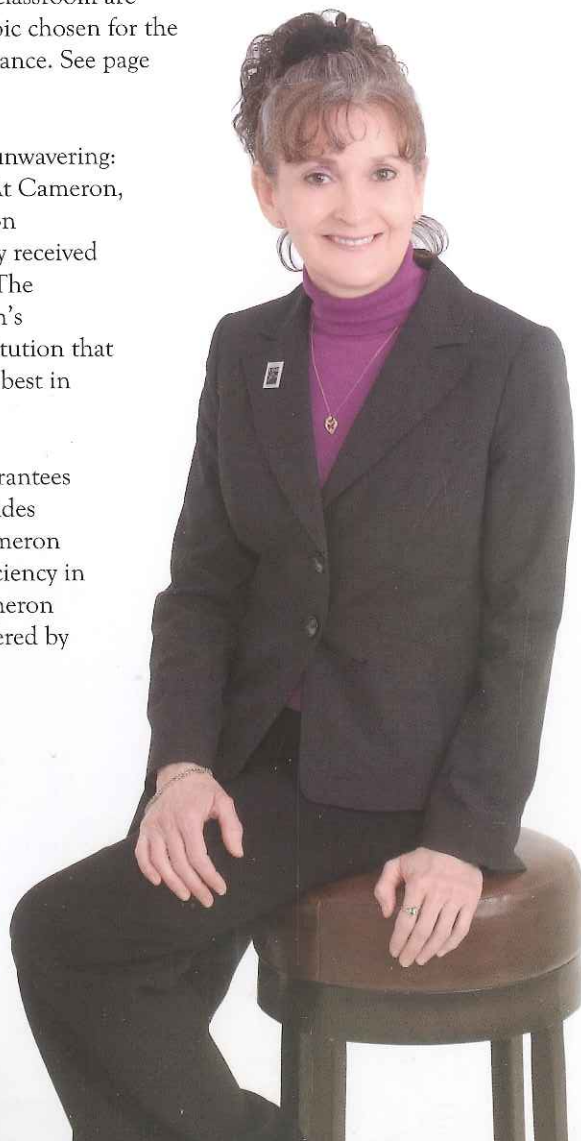
Confident in the quality of its education, Cameron University now guarantees its baccalaureate graduates. “The Cameron University Guarantee” provides additional education, at no expense to the graduate or employer, to Cameron graduates who enter the workforce and whose employers identify a deficiency in core employment areas in the graduate’s major field of study. “The Cameron University Guarantee” is believed to be the first program of its kind offered by a public university in Oklahoma and one of the first in the nation.

It is a great time to be a part of Cameron University. As you read this magazine, I know you will share the excitement of Cameron!

Sincerely,

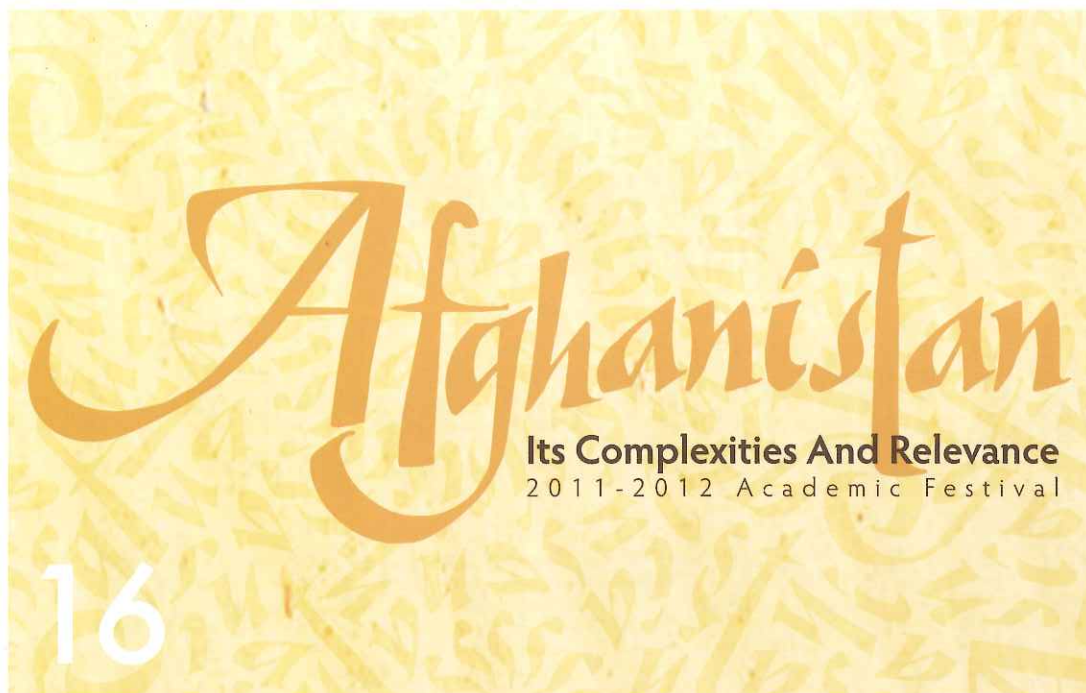
Cindy Ross

Cindy Ross
President



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CAMERON

MAGAZINE

Fall 2011 Volume 8, Issue 2

President:
Cindy Ross

**Director of
Alumni Relations:**
Jennifer Bowen

**Senior Director of
Public Affairs:**
Josh Lehman

**Director of Media Relations/
Managing Editor:**
Janet E. Williams

Graphic Designers:
Melanie Barfield
Ann Morris

Editorial Assistant:
Marty McCoy

Contributors:
Rachel Engel
Monica Wood
Jacob Russell

Photographers:
Melanie Barfield
Jeff Dixon
John Dolan
Jim Horinek
Ann Morris
Michael Pope
Monica Wood

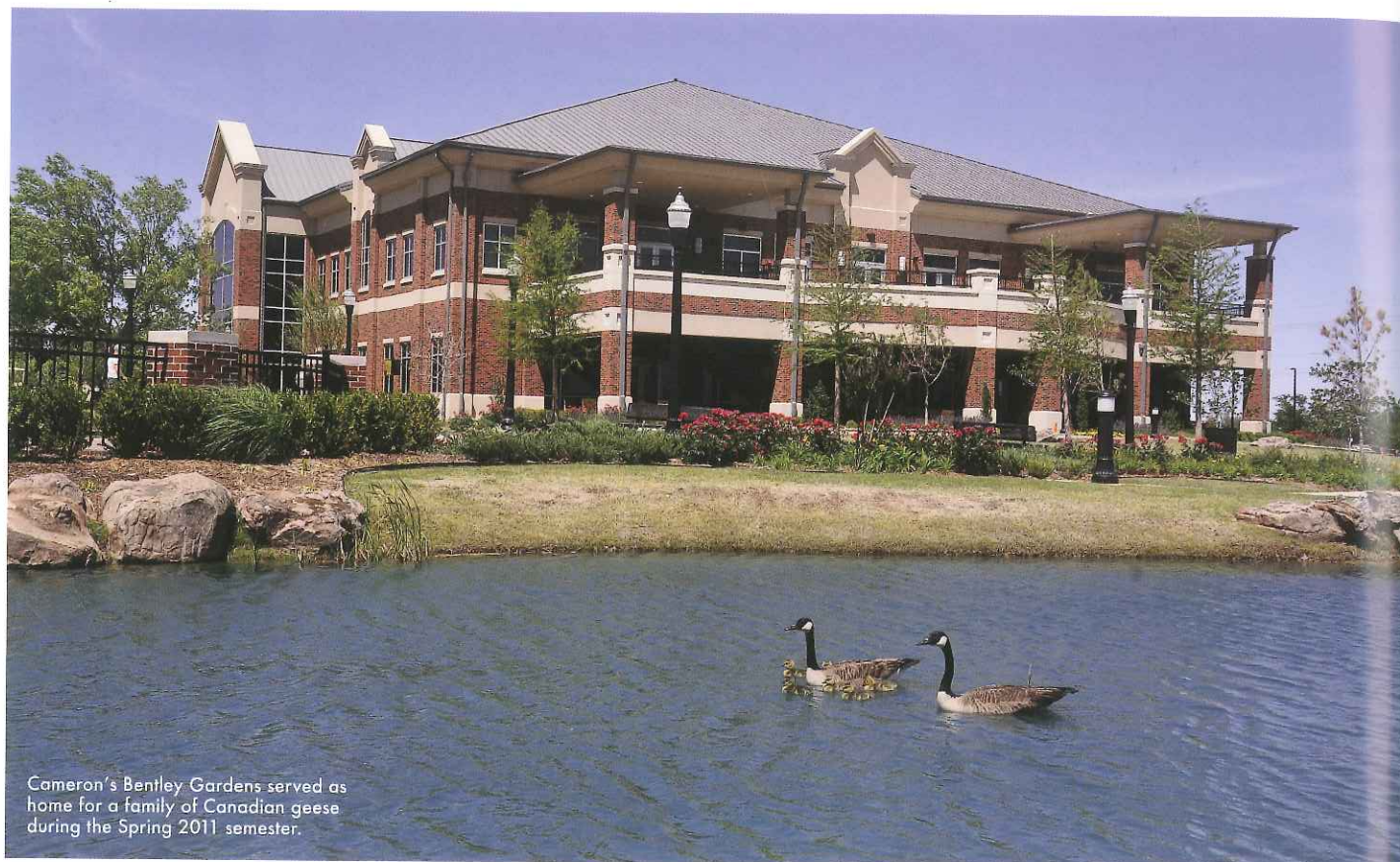
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Campus Update



Cameron's Bentley Gardens served as home for a family of Canadian geese during the Spring 2011 semester.

Cameron announces Master of Science in Organizational Leadership program

Cameron University has added a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership (MSOL) to its graduate curriculum, effective the Fall 2011 semester. This program, which comes under the umbrella of Cameron's School of Business, was recently approved for addition by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

MSOL courses are available in both online and face-to-face formats. The program is designed to prepare men and women to be leaders in military, governmental, entrepreneurial and corporate ventures, as well as to further graduate study. The program addresses subjects at an advanced level including organizational behavior, leadership and knowledge management, training and development and human resource issues within organizations, strategic knowledge and change management, synthesis and communication of information gleaned from data sets for decision-making purposes, and global policies and strategies.

The program will enable students to advance professionally by better understanding organizational operations and developing practices that empower organizations to be successful. Potential career choices include organizational development, knowledge management, human resources management, information technology, business process design, organizational change management, and project management.

The MSOL becomes the sixth master's degree program that Cameron offers, joining the Master of Business Administration, Master of Education, Master of Education in Reading, Master of Science in Behavioral Sciences and Master of Science in Educational Leadership. For more information about this or other graduate programs at CU, contact the Graduate Admissions Counselor at 580-581-5489.

Cameron guarantees its graduates

Confident in the quality education its students receive, Cameron now guarantees that education as graduates enter the workforce. “The Cameron University Guarantee” will provide additional education, at no expense to the graduate or employer, to Cameron graduates who enter the workforce and whose employers identify a deficiency in core employment areas in the graduate’s major field of study.

“Student learning is our top priority, and Cameron remains committed to providing students a top quality education,” says President Cindy Ross. “So committed that Cameron guarantees that graduates will be competent in their fields of study upon entering the workforce.”

“The Cameron University Guarantee” is believed to be the first program of its kind offered by a public university in Oklahoma and one of the first in the nation. This guarantee is an assurance of the confidence that Cameron has in the skills and competence of its graduates.

Eligibility for the program consists of:

- The student must have graduated from Cameron University in Spring 2012 or later.
- The student must have completed all of his or her course work at Cameron University and graduated with a baccalaureate degree within five years of his/her initial enrollment.
- The graduate must be employed in the state of Oklahoma.
- The identified deficiency area(s) must be in the graduate’s major field of study and be confined to entry-level competencies expected of a new college graduate.
- The employer must identify and report the deficiency area(s) to the Cameron University Office of Career Services within the first six months of the graduate’s initial employment.



Upon receiving notification of a deficiency, Cameron University faculty will develop an individualized plan to remediate the deficiency area(s). The plan will include the required learning outcomes and will be implemented and completed within one year.

Assistance may be provided to the graduate through distance learning technology or other arrangements mutually agreed upon by the university, the graduate and the employer. It is understood that any required remediation is a three-way partnership among the graduate, Cameron University, and the employer and that all must operate in good faith to remediate any deficiency.

For additional information about “The Cameron University Guarantee,” go to www.cameron.edu/guarantee or contact the Office of Career Services at (580) 581-2209.



CAMERON UNIVERSITY
SOLID FOUNDATION. QUALITY CHOICES.
EXCELLENCE FOR THE SECOND CENTURY.

Cameron earns unconditional affirmation of accreditation

Following a thorough internal review of its programs and initiatives, Cameron received the best accreditation report in its history earlier this year. The glowing report was issued by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges. Utilizing input from Cameron faculty, staff, students and community, the university spent more than two years preparing an extensive self-study report and then welcomed the HLC evaluation team to campus in November 2010. Following a four-day visit, the six-member team recommended an unconditional affirmation of Cameron's accreditation with no reports or interim visits. The HLC Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation and reaffirmed Cameron's accreditation status.

"It is extremely rewarding - and uncommon - to receive such a positive accreditation report," says Cameron President Cindy Ross. "The glowing report we received from the evaluation team is a direct reflection of the expertise and dedication of the faculty and staff who work so diligently to serve our students and the overwhelming support from the Southwest Oklahoma community."

The evaluation team reported numerous university strengths, including citations noting that Cameron is future-oriented and learner-focused, that strategic planning has moved from a weakness 10 years ago to a strength today, that the university boasts exemplary enrollment management and budgeting, that decisions are made for the students' benefit, and that the university is extraordinarily responsive to community needs.

Cameron was cited as "a role model institution in its integration of planning, budgeting, assessment, and institutional accountability in the manner with which it interacts with the community and its partners and in the efforts it takes to ensure that it lives its mission." The report noted, "Student learning is at the center of what it (Cameron University) does, and despite significant statewide budget cuts, the institution was able to redesign itself to meet changing student needs. It pays attention to student learning, effective teaching, faculty concerns, assessment and the application of knowledge."

During the exit meeting which concluded the site visit in November 2010, Dr. Kathie S. Gilbert, team chair for the evaluation team, stated that Cameron's report was among "the top of all reports in her 25 years of evaluation" of universities across the nation. She added that Cameron was a "jewel in the plains" and was receiving "the best report she has ever seen."

Cameron's self-study and the evaluation team's report will be used as guides to focus Cameron's efforts for additional growth and enhancement in areas such as assessment of general education coursework, decreasing faculty overload commitments and improving student retention and graduation rates.

Cameron has been continuously accredited as a four-year institution by the commission since 1973.

Cameron University ROTC program ranked in top three nationally

Cameron University's Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program was selected as the third-place winner of Outstanding Army Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit Award by the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America (OFPA). OFPA is a civilian organization that has been preserving patriotism for more than 100 years. Cameron's Comanche Battalion was evaluated

along with 272 other university programs on total training performance, recruiting, and achievement of mission to contribute to commission the very best young men and women that America has to offer. This marks the first time the Comanche Battalion, the top-ranked battalion in the 5th Brigade, has been honored with the award.

Academic Advising Center assists new students with enrollment and more

New students enrolling at Cameron University are now able to do so at the Academic Advising Center, a central location for academic information and resources for students. Located in North Shepler, the Academic Advising Center provides advising services to all new Cameron students and helps students find the right major that meets their academic goals and interests. Incoming students are assigned an advisor based on the major selected by the student. In addition to full-time advisors, students are also advised by members of the faculty, full-time instructors from different majors who have dedicated time specifically to work with students in the Advisement Center.



Faculty members and full-time staff assist new students with enrollment, selecting a major, and more in Cameron's Academic Advising Center.

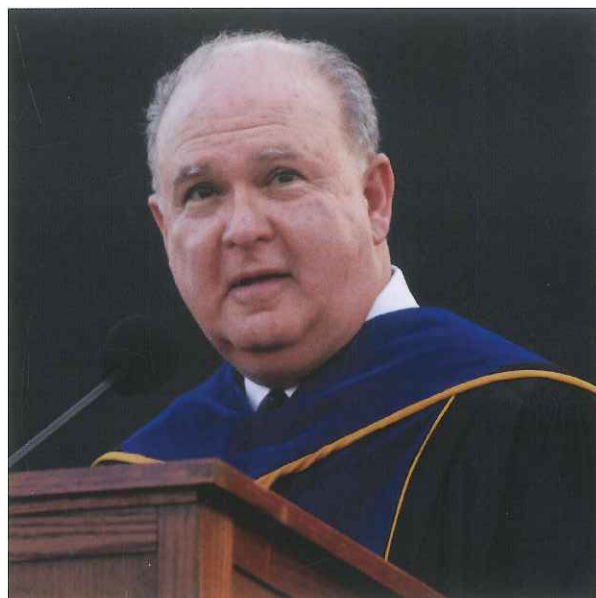
**SAVE
THE
DATE**
HOMECOMING 2012
FEBRUARY 24-25

The graphic features a large, stylized white house silhouette in the center. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a pattern of overlapping geometric shapes and lines. The text is in a bold, black, serif font.



Cameron University hosted Fort Sill's FIRES Conference in May, which was attended by military personnel from around the world. President Cindy Ross accepted an appreciation gift from Brigadier General Ghazi Assafa O. Bin Muhaya of the Saudi Arabian National Guard, commander of the SANG Artillery.

Undersecretary of the Army Joseph Westphal, Ph.D., delivered the keynote address for Cameron's Spring 2011 Commencement ceremony.



Staff & Faculty News

PRESIDENT CINDY ROSS

Cameron University President Cindy Ross was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame by the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women earlier this year. She was recognized for playing "a vital role in shaping higher education in Oklahoma and has dedicated her professional life to improving education for Oklahoma's students and the work environment for those working in higher education."

KATHERINE LIONTAS-WARREN

Katherine Liontas-Warren, Professor of Art, is the inaugural recipient of the Sanjit Bhattacharya Endowed Lectureship for Excellence in Research. Liontas-Warren has consistently made outstanding creative contributions in her field, has earned a national reputation as a printmaker and has exhibited her work internationally.

SCOTT RICHARD KLEIN

Scott Richard Klein, Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts, was honored with the Jeanne Adams Wray Award by the Oklahoma Community Theatre Association (OCTA) in July. The award is presented to someone not working with community theatre in Oklahoma, but who has or is making contributions to its progress.

DR. JOANNI SAILOR

Dr. Joanni Sailor has been elected Chair of the Oklahoma Licensed Marital and Family Therapist (LMFT) State Advisory Board. Dr. Sailor is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology. She was first appointed to the LMFT State Advisory Board in 2009 by the Commissioner of Health.

STEVE ADAMS

Steve Adams, a faculty member in the Department of Communication, was elected president of Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association (OBEA). He becomes the first person elected twice to the organization's top post. He previously served as president in 1996-97. As president, Adams will also serve on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters.

DR. PAUL CRANDON

Dr. Paul Crandon, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication, successfully completed the Public Relations Society of America's (PRSA) Examination for Accreditation in Public Relations (APR), entitling him to use the APR professional designation. Crandon becomes only the third APR in Lawton.

DR. THOMAS LABÉ

Dr. Thomas Labé, Professor of Music, received Cameron's Award for Excellence and Innovation in Instructional Technology Integration, which recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in the use of instructional technology to increase student learning. Dr. Labé has replaced the use of PowerPoint in select classes by developing content-rich websites drawing on his expertise with computer graphics, HTML and audio/video content, as well as learning database and PHP scripting.

Cameron President Cindy Ross accepts a \$100,000 gift from the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma, presented by Grand Master Glen Almy. The gift will be used to support Cameron's Lectures and Concerts Series, which is supported by student fees. The donation will allow for expansion of the series at no additional cost to Cameron students. Events sponsored by the Lectures and Concerts Series are open to the public, free of charge.



Congratulations to the winners of the 2011 University Choice Awards, which recognize the achievements of Cameron faculty and staff. Cameron President Cindy Ross (center) presented awards to Terry Hacker (Location of Choice Award), Dr. Courtney Glazer (Partner of Choice Award), Marcella Gustafson (College Experience of Choice Award) and Ron Gaines (University of Choice Award).



Students from Nepal donned their native attire to celebrate the Nepali New Year.



Twenty graduating seniors from Cameron's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program were commissioned as Second Lieutenants and notified of their branch assignments during a ceremony held at the McCasland Ballroom in May.

Cameron recognizes service to the university

Cameron staff members Susan Hill and Roger Long received the university's Spring 2011 Pickaxe Award, which recognizes full-time Cameron employees who have made an extraordinary effort on Cameron's behalf.

Hill, the secretary for the Department of English and Foreign Languages, has been a member of the CU staff for more than 25 years. She also serves as financial officer for *The Collegian* and is responsible for maintaining the publication's financial records and processing advertising billing. One nominator wrote, "Susan's work ethic is an inspiring example to those around her."

As transportation foreman in the Physical Facilities Department, Long ensures that all university vehicles are clean and in good working order. He also manages the university's online maintenance work order request system, which he implemented to improve the department's response time to maintenance requests.

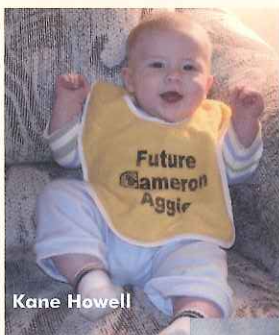
"If Roger can't find a driver to escort the bus on a trip, he will drive it himself," one nominator said. "If a vehicle breaks down, Roger is right there to come to the rescue." Another cited his willingness to assist stranded drivers during his off-duty hours.



FUTURE CAMERON AGGIES

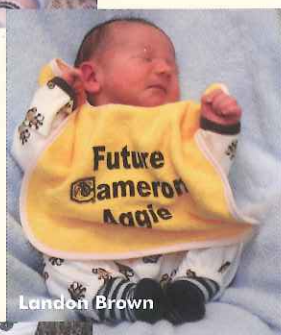


Future Cameron Aggie Austyn Grace Lawler is surrounded by family members who either graduated or attended Cameron or are currently enrolled. Back row from left: Daisy Lawler, Larry Lawler, Grant Walker, Bonnie Smith Lawler, Jeff Lawler, Gabrielle Walker; Bottom row from left: Judy Lawler Latimer and Jennifer Lawler (holding Austyn).



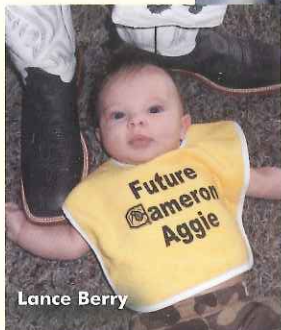
Kane Howell

Kane Howell is the great-grandson of Mike Fisher, a member of the 1961 National Champion Football team.



Landon Brown

Landon Brown is the son of Wendy Locke, CU staff member, and Nickolas Brown.



Lance Berry

Lance Berry is the grandson of 1981 CU graduate Brett Berry and his wife Mary.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A CAMERON BABY BIB FOR YOUR FUTURE AGGIE, CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS AT 580-581-2988.



Cameron University student Whitney Hatfield (right), an elementary education major from Lawton, was named a 2011 DaVinci/Martin Scholar by The DaVinci Institute, a private partnership of leaders in higher education across the state of Oklahoma. One of five DaVinci/Martin Scholars selected in the state, Hatfield will receive \$3,000 from The DaVinci Institute in her first year of teaching in Oklahoma. She is congratulated by (left) Dr. Ronna Vanderslice, Dean of the School of Educational and Behavioral Sciences, and (center) Dr. Lynda Robinson, Associate Professor of Education.

Seth Tyler Copeland claims Morris Poetry Prize for second consecutive year

Seth Tyler Copeland of Indianahoma submitted the winning poem for the 2011 John G. Morris Poetry Prize, earning the award for the second consecutive year. Copeland received the \$250 first prize for his poem, "Derelict."

A second-place prize of \$150 was awarded to Colton Rowe, Cache, for his poem, "Take Me to the Healing Waters."

Both Copeland's and Rowe's poems will appear in the upcoming issue of Cameron University's literary magazine, The Gold Mine.

Academic Commons

to replace former student union

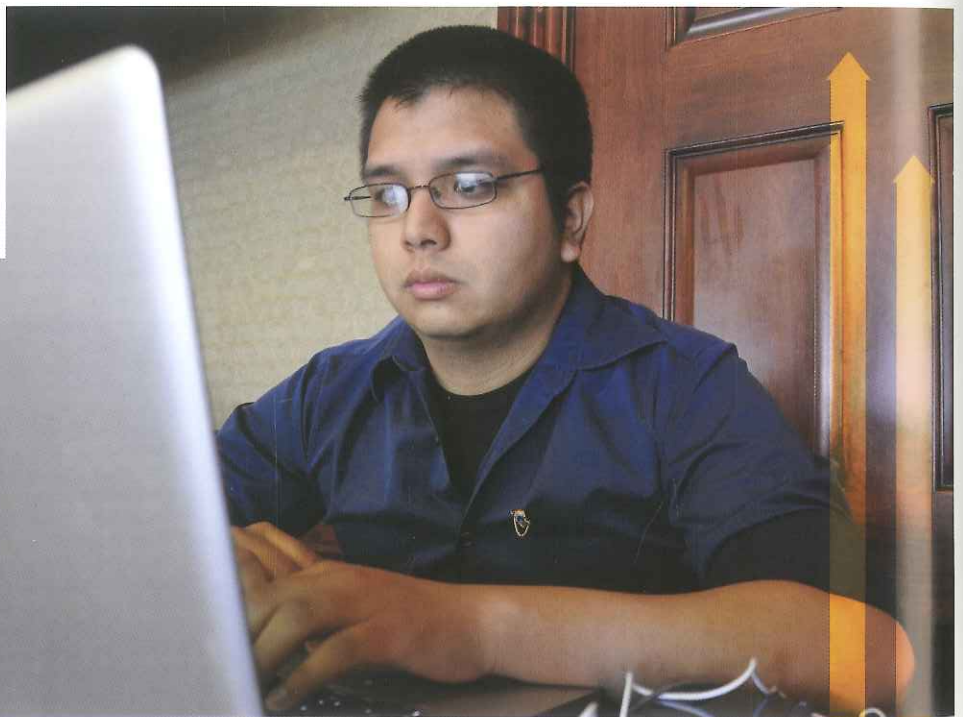


1. The McCasland Ballroom was filled to capacity as Cameron faculty, staff and students joined community members for the announcement.

2. Communication major Elijah Morlett posts a live update to AggieCentral.com.

3. The exterior appearance of the Academic Commons will be updated to match the Cameron palette, including the addition of large arched windows and entryways featuring peaked roofs. Two inviting patio spaces will also be incorporated, providing students and faculty a comfortable location to enjoy the outdoor environment.

4. A portion of the McCasland Ballroom was transformed into the CUTV studio for the announcement





Left to Right:

Matt Thompson shares a live update about the Academic Commons announcement with Cameron supporters Dr. Charles S. Graybill and his wife Betty.

Michael Faggett waits for a cue from stage manager Tiffany Martinez.

During a news broadcast with a live studio audience, Cameron University's student-run in-house television network, CUTV, helped Cameron President Cindy Ross announce plans for a major renovation of the former Student Union. The now-vacant building is currently being transformed into the Academic Commons and will become home to Cameron's cutting-edge Convergence Journalism option, uniting the Department of Communication's print, television and online production capabilities in one location.

"The Academic Commons is an important next step in continuing to be the University of Choice," President Cindy Ross. "When complete, the Academic Commons will join the McMahon Centennial Complex, University Library and McMahon Fine Arts Complex to form a core of centrally located buildings with extended hours of operation to better serve our students and the community."

President Ross also announced a fundraising campaign to fund the construction, sharing that gifts totaling \$1.375 million had already been received. The McMahon Foundation provided \$1 million, and the Cameron University Foundation pledged \$250,000. In addition, the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation pledged \$100,000, and the Walton Family Foundation donated \$25,000. The campaign goal is \$2 million. As of July 1, the Cameron University Foundation has received gifts and pledges in excess of \$1.753 million, almost 88 percent of the campaign goal.

During the newscast, Cameron's student reporters, armed with iPads and laptops equipped with the latest editing software as well as video cameras, demonstrated how quickly news can be broadcast utilizing cutting-edge technology. Seconds after President Ross concluded her remarks, an in-depth story about the day's event was posted on AggieCentral.com. Attendees

were able to watch video directly on their iPhones, Androids, or iPads. The Academic Commons will also house a broad range of academic services with extended hours of operation including a computer laboratory, a student tutoring center for multiple academic disciplines, a campus-wide information technology help desk, modern classrooms and an adjunct faculty support center.

The cost to transform the 49-year-old building into the Academic Commons is estimated to be \$4.2 million. In addition to private donations, funding will be provided by Cameron's building and capital equipment funds and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Master Lease-Purchase program.

Construction began in June and will conclude July 2012. The Academic Commons will open in time for Fall 2012 classes.

- Janet E. Williams



For more information about giving to the Academic Commons campaign, contact the Cameron University Foundation at 580-581-2999.



DR. MICHAEL AND SHAUN GEIGER

A Geiger

FAMILY TRADITION

As third generation Cameron students, the Geiger quadruplets are on their way to becoming future alumni, following a long line of family members to claim Cameron as their own. Darah, Seth, Trevor and Bryce, who celebrated their 21st birthday on Aug. 1, each chose to attend Cameron for different reasons.

Their grandparents – Jerry and Royce Geiger – and their parents – Dr. Michael and Shaun Geiger – all attended Cameron. Jerry and Royce were both education majors who taught school in Snyder.

Mike graduated from Cameron in 1982 and then received his doctorate in optometry from Northeastern State University. He opened Geiger Eye Care in Altus in 1998. His wife Shaun works with him at the practice. She completed three years at CU, then followed her husband to Northeastern and completed her biology degree there.

“I missed Cameron,” she says. “I’ve always considered myself a Cameron graduate, because most of my time was spent there; only my last year was at Northeastern.”

Despite the family legacy of attending Cameron, the quadruplets weren’t pressured to attend CU.

For the current Cameron generation, they all agree that affordability and ease of transition from a small town to college life played a large part in the decision process.

Seth initially contemplated attending the University of Oklahoma, but chose Cameron once he looked at his

options. “I received \$8,000 in scholarships to attend OU, and \$8,000 to attend Cameron,” he says. “They each offered me the same amount, but at Cameron, the money went further. That played a big part in my decision, as well as the fact that both my brothers and sister were going to Cameron; they’re like my best friends.”

Bryce cites location and tuition assistance as his primary reasons for choosing Cameron.

“I like southwest Oklahoma and being close to home,” he says, “Since I received the PLUS scholarship, it really helped influence my decision.”

Since the quadruplets became Aggies in 2009, Mike and Shaun frequently visit campus. “We’re over there quite a bit, and it doesn’t look like the same place we went to school,” Mike says.

Shaun says some of her favorite memories included the people she met and cheering on Cameron athletics. “I enjoyed the camaraderie and going to the basketball games to watch my husband play,” she says. “Cameron also had football back then, and we really enjoyed the games. We had a lot of friends who played football.”

Mike feels that Cameron's reputation has grown and firmly believes the level of education its students receive competes with the education offered at other solid universities.

"One of the things that people worry about, especially when they want to continue on to graduate school, is 'Can you get there from Cameron?' I just don't think that's an issue," he says. "Darah got into dental hygiene school on her first try. It's very competitive, and a lot of people say [getting accepted on your first try] can't be done. We feel like the quality of a Cameron education is recognized at other universities. They know the students are going to be well prepared and excel in professional school."

Darah, who will enter OU's dental hygiene program this fall, agrees that Cameron helped prepare her mentally for the challenge. "With how intense the studies were, especially in the science department, I feel Cameron helped prepare me for the change," she says. "Faculty also works with the students, and they boost your confidence."

For Seth, the most appealing aspects of attending Cameron are the individualized attention and depth of caring shown to the students.

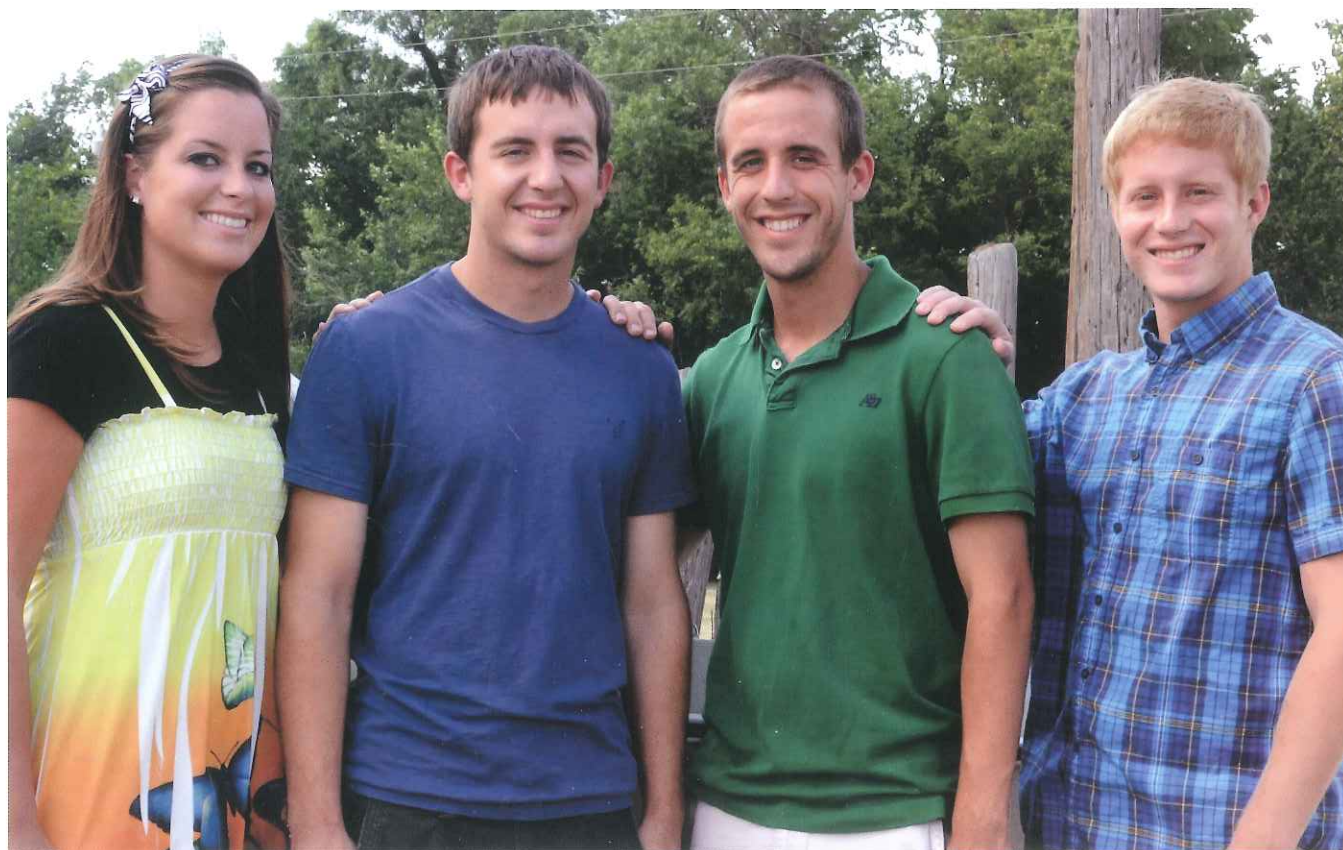
"The best thing about attending Cameron is the faculty, definitely," he says. "You get to know the teachers on a personal level. When they see you outside of class they will wave and ask how you're doing. And how many students can say their university president knows them by name?"

Trevor, a business major who is also a PLUS scholar and active with the Programming Activities Council (PAC), agrees on personalized attention being a major benefit.

"Being in small classes makes a huge difference to me," he says. "I don't have to worry about sitting in the back of a room with three or four hundred people and maybe getting lost in the shuffle. I am able to get involved and my professors get to know me."

While their respective reasons for attending Cameron vary, the Geiger family can't deny they're pleased with their choice. "We know they're getting a good education and that the administration and faculty really care about the kids," Mike says.

- Rachel Engel



DARAH

BRYCE

SETH

TREVOR



SOUTH AMERICAN

AGGIES

If you've been fortunate enough to visit a foreign country, you know that learning about the culture and way of life in a different area of the world is one of the most rewarding and enriching experiences a person can have.

This past May, Cameron University afforded that experience to five of its own students - while giving them course credit to study and tour the country.

Cameron agriculture majors Joey Baker, Jesse Dietrich, Elaine Harder, Aaron Nichols, and Brenna Sweat spent May 8-22 exploring the country of Brazil to learn about its industry, technology and culture. This three-credit course, available through Oklahoma State University, has been offered numerous times in the past by OSU (11 OSU students went on the trip this year as well), but this year for the first time Cameron students were able to go with the Oklahoma State contingent.

Dr. Frank White and Dr. Silvano Abreu from Cameron's Department of Agriculture worked with OSU professors Dr. Carol Jones and Dr. Jim Smay to allow CU student involvement with this unique experience. They wanted to find a way to have students learn about other cultures in a learning environment.

"This was a great opportunity for our students," White says. "To take students over and have them learn about the makeup of a country and in particular its culture was invaluable. Hopefully this is something that can continue in the future."

In advance of the trip, these five students attended lectures on CU's campus for six weeks, learning in advance about Brazilian culture, agriculture and other aspects of life. Each student was

required to take pictures and keep a daily written journal that was graded throughout the trip. After returning, each student was required to write and submit a paper on the experience.

The trip started in the city of Rio de Janeiro and also included visits to Sertãozinho, Curitiba, Foz do Iguaçu, Mauá de Serra and Londrina. Along the way, the group was able to tour a number of areas of interest, including the São Paulo State Animal Science Research Institute, sugar and ethanol plants, a silk factory, CRV Lavoia (an animal research facility), Iguaçu Falls and the Itaipu Dam - the largest hydroelectrical plant in the world.

The trip ended with a four-day trip down the Amazon River, where students slept on the boat and hiked in the Amazon forest, fished for piranha in the river, and had hands-on experience with Amazonian and medicinal plants.

"This was a delightful experience," Harder says. "South America is such a beautiful continent. The people we met and interacted with had such a sense of 'green initiatives.' It was almost second nature to them to take care of the environment."

The students came back in awe of what they saw.

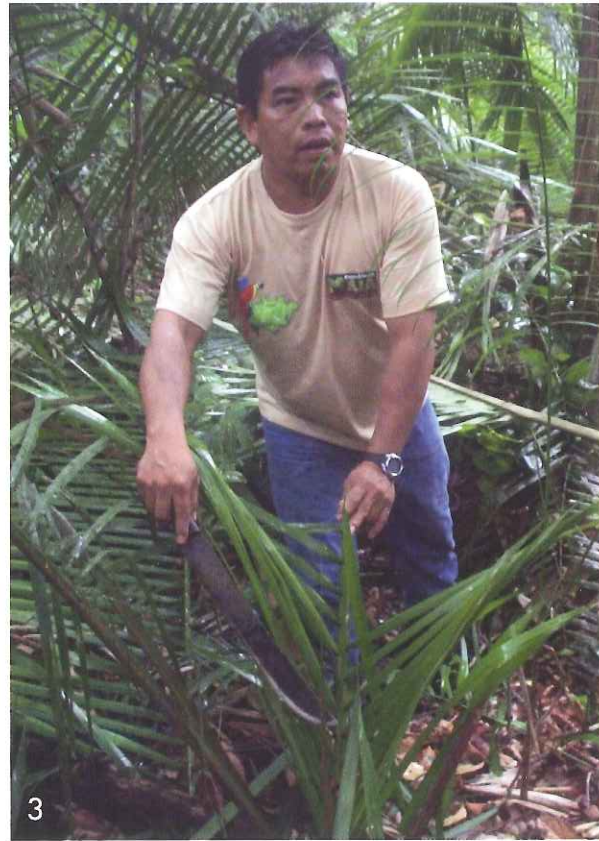
"We all had a great time and learned so much," Harder says. "We really bonded together. For me, it was a life-changing experience, and I will never forget it."

- Josh Lehman





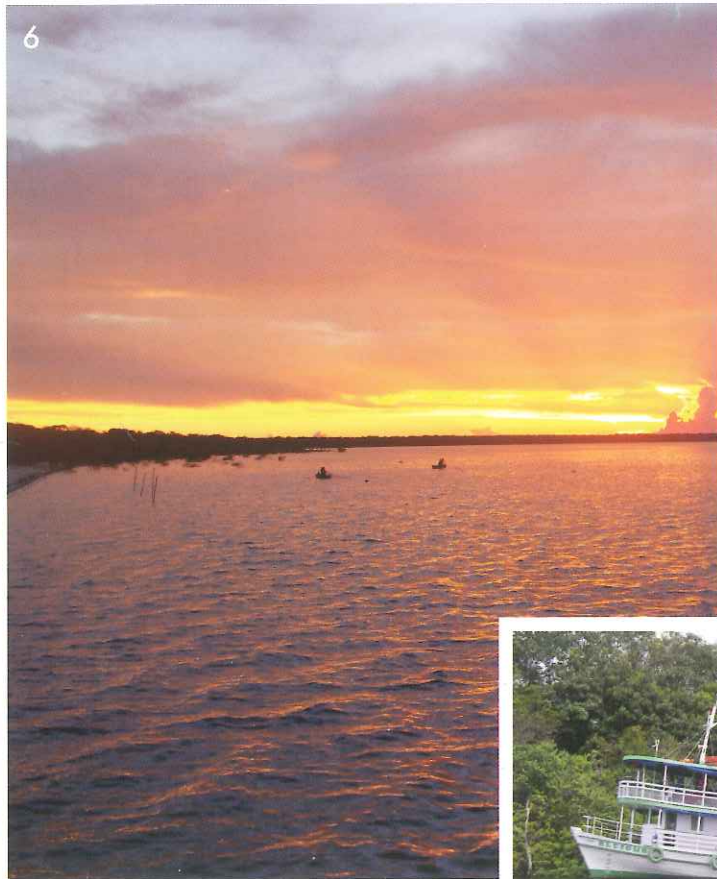
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1. Iguazu Falls, the third-largest waterfall in the world, is located on the Brazil/Argentina border.

2. Pictured in front of the Botanical Gardens in Curitiba are CU students (front row, beginning second from left) Brenna Sweat, Elaine Harder and Jesse Dietrich and (back row, from left) Aaron Nicholas and Joey Baker.

3. Local Samuel Basilio guided the group through the Amazon River and jungle.


4. Itaipu Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world.

5. A Brazilian Nelore cow takes a rest under some beautiful greenery.

6. A four-day tour of the Amazon aboard the Elcione allowed CU students to witness a glorious sunset.

Afghanistan

Its Complexities And Relevance
2011-2012 Academic Festival



Cameron University's triennial Academic Festival is a year-long symposium designed to provide students, faculty, staff and the community an opportunity for in-depth study of a worthy topic. The tradition of academic festivals first began in 1991 with the first academic festival which focused on the Renaissance.

The 2011-2012 academic year marks the university's eighth Academic Festival, which includes the university's popular Centennial Celebration in 2008-09. This year's festival will focus on "Afghanistan: Its Complexities and Relevance." The year-long festival will present numerous opportunities for the public to gain an understanding of this Central Asian country.

"Cameron's academic festival will be a year-long study of Afghanistan, its position on the world stage, and the countless aspects of Afghan culture and politics that make the country such a compelling nation," says Cameron President Cindy Ross. "The academic festival will offer both scholarly and entertaining activities that will appeal to Cameron students, faculty and staff as well as the community."

Similar to previous festival's, this year's festival will feature guest speakers, campus-wide activities, seminars, special events and cross-curricular emphasis in the classroom, all strategically planned to support the study of this country.

Headlining the festival are nationally acclaimed speakers who are recognized authorities on Afghanistan. Kicking off the festival speaker series on Tuesday, August 30, is Dr. Khaled Hosseini, Afghan native and best-selling author of the 2003 novel "The Kite Runner." Dr. Hosseini's appearance is one of few public appearances he will make this year.

Born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1965, Dr. Hosseini is the son of a former diplomat whose position in the Afghan Foreign Ministry relocated his family to Paris in 1976. The family's 1980 planned return to Kabul was thwarted by a communist coup and an invasion by the Soviet Union. Granted political asylum, the family settled in California. Dr. Hosseini, who received his medical degree from the University of California at San Diego, practiced internal medicine from 1996-2004. During this time, he wrote "The Kite Runner," a prizewinning novel that has been published in 48 countries. "The Kite Runner" chronicles the friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul. Their intertwined lives, and their fates, reflect the eventual tragedy of the world around them. In 2007, Hosseini published his second novel, "A Thousand Splendid Suns." An international best-seller, the novel is set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last 30 years. Both novels provide an insightful view of Afghan culture.

The Academic Festival will continue on Thursday, September 29 with best-selling author Steve Coll, president of New America Foundation and a contributor to The New Yorker.

Coll, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, won his second Pulitzer Prize for “Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001.” Based on scrupulous research and firsthand accounts by key government, intelligence and military personnel both foreign and American, “Ghost Wars” details the secret history of the CIA’s role in Afghanistan, the rise of the Taliban, the emergence of Osama Bin Laden and more.

Coll’s 2008 book, “The Bin Ladens: An Arabian Family in the American Century,” documents the story of the Bin Laden family’s rise to power and privilege, revealing new information to show how American influences changed the family and how one member’s rebellion changed America.

Former U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel will be featured on October 26. Hagel is a Distinguished Professor of National Governance at Georgetown University’s Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service as well as a Distinguished Centennial Visiting Professor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha’s College of Public Affairs and Community Service. He is the author of “America: Our Next Chapter” in which he examines foreign policy problems, including China’s growing economy, India and Pakistan’s nuclear capabilities, and Iran’s aggressive political, ideological and nuclear stances. During his two terms in the U.S. Senate, Hagel was a member of the Committee for Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence, among other appointments.

His work in the private sector includes president and chief executive officer of the Private Sector Council in Washington, deputy director and chief operating officer of the 1990 Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations (G-7 Summit) and president and CEO of the World United Service Organizations.

Hagel continues to be an active public servant through his participation in civic, educational, and charitable organizations such as the Institute of Politics at Harvard



Dr. Khaled Hosseini

The Kite Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns
Tuesday, August 30, 2011· 7:30 p.m.



Steve Coll

Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2011; The Bin Ladens: An Arabian Family in the American Century
Thursday, September 29, 2011· 7:30 p.m.



Chuck Hagel

America: Our Next Chapter
Wednesday, October 26, 2011· 7:30 p.m.



Robin Wright

The Iran Primer: Power, Politics, and U.S. Policy; Dreams and Shadows: The Future of the Middle East; Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion Across the Islamic World
Thursday, January 19, 2011· 7:30 p.m.



Gen. (Ret.) Stanley A. McChrystal

Retired Four-Star General
Thursday, March 15, 2011· 7:30 p.m.



University, the German Marshall Fund's Trade and Poverty Forum, the Eisenhower World Affairs Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Journalist, foreign policy analyst and author Robin Wright will be the first speaker of the Spring 2012 semester on January 19, 2012. Wright is currently a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace as well as a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Wright has reported from more than 140 countries on six continents for leading news outlets including the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, The Sunday Times of London and CBS News. She has also written for The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly, The New York Times Magazine, TIME, The International Herald Tribune, and many others.

Wright is the editor of the December 2010 book, "The Iran Primer: Power, Politics and U.S. Policy," a compendium that provides top-level briefings by 50 seasoned experts on Iran. Wright is currently working on her seventh book, "Rock The Casbah: Rage and Rebellion Across the Islamic World."

The fifth speaker of the Academic Festival will be General (Ret.) Stanley A. McChrystal, who will address the Cameron community on March 15, 2012. A 1976 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., McChrystal served 34 years in the United States Army, retiring in 2010 having achieved the rank of four-star general.

McChrystal is widely praised for creating a revolution in warfare that fused intelligence and operations. He is the former commander of U.S. and international forces in Afghanistan and the former leader of Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), which oversees the military's most sensitive forces. McChrystal's leadership of JSOC is credited with the December 2003 capture of Saddam Hussein and the June 2006 location and killing of Abu Musab al-

Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq. McChrystal, a former Green Beret, is known for his candor, innovative leadership, and going the distance.

The son and grandson of Army officers, McChrystal began training at the Special Forces School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was commissioned as an infantry officer, and spent much of his career commanding special operations and airborne infantry units. During the Persian Gulf War, McChrystal served in a Joint Special Operations Task Force and later commanded the 75th Ranger Regiment. He completed year-long fellowships at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1997 and at the Council on Foreign Relations in 2000.

In 2002, he was appointed chief of staff of military operations in Afghanistan. Two years later, McChrystal was selected to deliver nationally televised Pentagon briefings about military operations in Iraq. From 2003 to 2008, he commanded JSOC and was responsible for leading the nation's deployed military counter-terrorism efforts around the globe, assuming command of all international forces in Afghanistan in June 2009. President Obama's order for an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan was based on McChrystal's assessment of the war.

McChrystal retired from the military in 2010. He now serves on the board of directors for JetBlue Airways, Navistar, and the Yellow Ribbon Fund. In 2011, he returned to public service after the Obama administration invited him to oversee Joining Forces, a high-profile initiative that aims to support military families. McChrystal will lead its three-member advisory board.

Portions of Cameron's curriculum will incorporate Afghanistan into both fall and spring classes. As a precursor to the academic festival, Dr. Vivian Thomlinson, Director of the Honors Program and Professor of English, included

a section about Afghanistan in her Great Ideas II seminar, an Honors class, last spring, leading her students through a study of the history and culture of Afghanistan and examining its history of trade and other social interactions with the rest of the world. The class also considered how Islam has helped to shape Afghanistan and how familial, clan and tribal affiliations affect the culture even today.

"I want my students to know where Afghanistan is on the world map," says Thomlinson. "More importantly, I want my students to know about Afghanistan's history, culture, religion and people."

During the Fall 2011 semester, Thomlinson will feature Afghanistan in her Survey of World Literature through the Renaissance class. "I will pay special attention to the early religions and cultures that affected what is now Afghanistan," says Thomlinson. "This will include having students read the literary works of the Mesopotamian region including the cuneiform epic of 'Gilgamesh,' studying stories in the Jewish 'Torah,' examining the impact of Persian Zoroasterian thought and religion, and the influence of Hindu and Buddhism thought from India. We will also read many suras from the Koran, works written by the Afghanistani mystic Sufi poet Rumi, and travel narratives of the Islamic traveler/adventure writer Ibn Battuta."

During the Spring 2012 semester, the Cameron University Department of Art will present guest lecturer Dr. Fredrick Hiebert, archeologist, explorer, and curator of National Geographic's exhibition "Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures

from the National Museum, Kabul," which is currently being displayed at museums around the world. The collection contains some of the most remarkable archaeological finds in all of Central Asia and includes pieces that are not only artistically splendid but also reveal a diverse and thriving ancient culture. In addition to a visual lecture, Dr. Hiebert will preview a film about the collection, "Lost Treasures of Afghanistan."

The McCasland Foundation of Duncan is the primary sponsor of "Afghanistan: Its Complexities and Relevance." Committed to supporting educational opportunities in Southwest Oklahoma, the McCasland Foundation has partnered with Cameron University for more than 20 years, supporting multiple Academic Festivals and numerous Cameron initiatives, including providing matching funds for more than 50 endowed lectureships and funding almost 200 scholarships. Additionally, the foundation has been a significant donor to Cameron's McMahon Centennial Complex, Center for Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurial Studies, and Sciences Complex. Additional funding for this year's festival is provided by the Cameron University Foundation and through Cameron University Lectures and Concerts Series.

Themes of other Academic Festivals included cultural diversity; science and technology; bridging the millennium; globalization and the human experience; and health and wellness.

- Janet E. Williams

Academic Festival lectures are open to the public at no charge.

Tickets are required.

For tickets and additional information, visit

www.cameron.edu/festival7.

All events held in the Cameron University Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

ACADEMIC FESTIVAL 2011-2012 IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

Dr. George Edward Stanley

Cameron University lost an esteemed professor, expert linguist, prolific author, steadfast mentor and dear friend on February 7, 2011 with the death of Dr. George Edward Stanley. Dr. Stanley, Professor of African and central Asian Languages and Linguistics, called Cameron's English and Foreign Language Department his professional home for 41 years. He fluently spoke an impressive 13 languages and had a command of the linguistic structure of more than 30 languages.



Referred to by many as a true "Renaissance man," Dr. Stanley had many interests and a rich tapestry of life experiences. During his years, he lived all over Europe and Africa, studying and teaching foreign languages, working for the U.S. government, and writing books for young people and adults. He authored over 200 short stories and more than 100 books for young people.

Dr. Stanley began writing fiction while teaching as a Fulbright professor and living in Chad in central Africa. His only diversion in that nation's capital city of N'Djamena was listening to the BBC on his short wave radio. That led to Stanley writing radio plays for a program called World Service Short Story. Three of his plays were later produced.

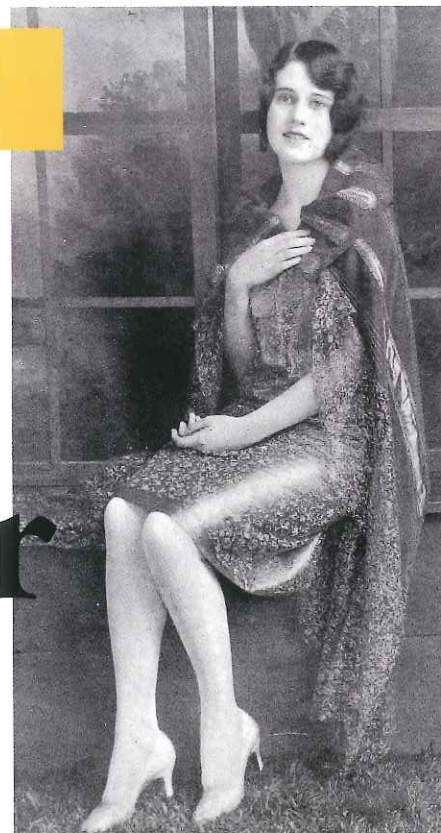
A member of the steering committee for the eighth Academic Festival, Dr. Stanley's expertise was invaluable in the initial planning efforts. His wisdom and adventurous spirit have been sorely missed among his fellow committee members and the entire Cameron community.

Dr. Stanley was a true educator and a life-long learner. The entire Cameron community grieved the loss of this remarkable man. To commemorate his life, Cameron University dedicates this year's Academic Festival—one which will explore a region of the world in which Dr. Stanley was such an expert linguist—to Dr. George Edward Stanley. The purpose of the Academic Festival—to delve deep into study and exploration of a topic of interest and intrigue—is just the type of adventure Dr. Stanley enjoyed.

Afghanistan
Its Complexities And Relevance
2011-2012 Academic Festival

Looking back to 1929:

Sara Watkins Miller



After graduating from high school at the age of 15, Sara Watkins Miller was one of the first students to take college courses when Cameron Agricultural High School added higher education classes to the curriculum. Now approaching her 100th birthday, she is believed to be Cameron's oldest living graduate. She received her associate degree in 1929.

Because her family lived in the country, Sara lived with her aunts in Lawton and graduated from Lawton High School in 1926. "It just so happened Cameron started offering college courses right when I graduated so I was able to go to college," she says.

"I was born in December of 1911, so I was young when I started taking classes at Cameron," Sara recalls. "My folks thought I was too young to be on my own, so I was fortunate that Cameron started offering college classes then. Since my parents said I was too young to go away to college, I would have had to wait several years before I could go to college if not for Cameron offering classes locally."

In addition to taking the "usual college classes like algebra and English," the bubbly teenager enjoyed extracurricular activities during her two years at Cameron. She was elected Sophomore Queen in 1929.

to Elgin that had all eighth grade students. I expect I was one of the youngest teachers they ever had."

She also taught at Washington School in Lawton and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Central State College (now the University of Central Oklahoma). After marrying Paul Miller in 1938, she moved to California in 1940 and worked at Northrop Aircraft as a precision investigator. His military career took her to installations across the country.

Sara re-entered the teaching profession in 1950, ultimately retiring in 1972 as head counselor at Coachella Valley High School in Palm Desert, Calif. Widowed in 1980 and now living in Reno, Nev., the soon-to-be-centenarian lives on her own. Her son, Wally, lives next door.

Even though she hasn't visited Lawton in several years, Sara is well aware of the recent changes to the Cameron campus. "Cameron sent me photos of the campus with all the new buildings," she explains. "I don't recognize much from the days I attended, but it was very nice to receive pictures of the current campus. It was very interesting to see."

Sara looks back on her Cameron days fondly. "I do feel Cameron helped to prepare me for life in the real world. I felt they had very good instructors who took a real interest in the students and ensured we understood the lessons."

That's one thing that hasn't changed.

- Monica Wood

Sara Miller and her great-grandson, Nathaniel Watkins Miller.



"I sang with the glee club and I also played violin with the orchestra," she says. "I was 17 when I graduated from college and received my teaching certificate. I got a job in a little country school close



Chase Larsson

Larsson named DII Player of the Year and
Rewrites School Record Book



Drafted by the Atlanta Braves in the ninth round of the 2011 draft, Chase Larsson is currently playing for the Danville Braves in Danville, Va.

When Braves outfielder Chase Larsson stepped onto Cameron's campus, he had one goal in mind - play baseball. That is exactly what he did, compiling one of the most dominant seasons in NCAA Division II history.

"He is probably the best baseball player I've seen as total tool guy," Cameron coach Todd Holland has said. "He is also one of best outfielders I've seen ... the total package. On the field, he is unbelievable."

When the 2010-11 season was all said and done, the Vancouver, B.C. native led DII in home runs (29), RBI (84), slugging percentage (1.000) and total bases (190), while finishing 11th overall in batting average (.432). Larsson also excelled defensively, starting in centerfield for the Aggies and completing the season with a .984 fielding percentage, with five outfield assists. He finished the season with 115 put-outs and only two errors.

During his year-long offensive outburst, Larsson rewrote CU's record book. Larsson tied a school record with eight RBIs in a single game and matched a school and conference record when he belted three home runs in a single contest. His most dominant power surge came during a stretch in March, when Larsson established a new NCAA Division II record by smashing a home run in nine consecutive games.

As productive as Larsson was in his lone season as an Aggie, his journey to Lawton was a long one. He was drafted in the



18th round by the Kansas City Royals, but turned down the opportunity in an attempt to improve his draft status. After two years at a junior college, Larsson found himself out of baseball for two years. It wasn't until he took a chance on the Aggies that his fortune began to change.

"I was excited," Larsson says. "It revalidated my thought that I am good enough and that I can swing it (the bat) at the next level. Taking the two years off and then deciding to come to Cameron, I always thought I could play at the next level. The coaches told me I could - it was just a matter of getting the chance to be seen."

And once he was seen, scouts took notice. Larsson admits he was worried about playing DII but soon realized the level of competition was still high. In the ninth round of the year's Major League Baseball draft, the Atlanta Braves took a chance on Larsson and signed him with their 296th pick. He is now living in Virginia, playing for the Danville Braves.

"It's unreal," he says. "Taking the two years off, coming here and then getting drafted higher than I had previously, proved that everything worked out in the end."

In addition to the new career as a major league baseball player, Larsson also added a number of new pieces of hardware to his collection. The honors that have come following his breakout season include first team selections on the All-America teams for Daktronics and Rawlings as well as to every South Central all-region team. He is also the recipient of six different player of the year awards, while being named on the inaugural College Baseball Lineup Division II All-Star Team.

But there is one award that Larsson is most proud of - his Tino Martinez Division II Player of the Year Award. The award, named after the former Tampa Spartan, Olympian and MLB All-Star, is given each year to the best player in DII baseball. The best part, Martinez, himself, called to congratulate Larsson.

"That was awesome," Larsson says. "I wasn't expecting him to actually call. I just thought it was going to be some of the people that helped vote and stuff. It was pretty cool just talking to him, a former big leaguer. He just said good luck in the draft and keep up the hard work." Larsson said he will be forever thankful to

Cameron for the opportunities it has provided him and is glad he decided to be an Aggie.

"It was awesome," he says. "Coach Holland has done everything that he said he was going to do when he was recruiting me, and even more. He talked me up to the scouts and helped me out with my swing, getting my power numbers up this year."

Holland was equally as complimentary of Larsson and his chances at the next level.

"He'll hit at any level," he says. "He just has a good swing. Everyone's worried because he's coming from a DII, but we faced guys throwing 89, 90 miles per hour. The guys that give him fits are the guys that don't throw hard. I think he'll do great."

- Jacob Russell

LIKE MOTHER LIKE DAUGHTER

Wilma Duke Stout and her daughter Sandy Metzner Holsinger have much more in common than family ties. Both women had the unique opportunity to serve as Cameron queens while they were students.

Queens at Cameron were responsible for being the face of Cameron athletics. Holsinger, 1962 Football Queen, says that while they did not have many set engagements, they were required to attend football games and ride on a float for the big parade.

"They didn't expect much out of you," Holsinger says. "I don't know if you know this or not, but Cameron had quite a following (at the time) so you (Queens) were seen."

Stout said her required appearances were even less after being crowned the 1939 Aggie Club Queen, but she still took pride in her role. In fact, she was happy just to be able to attend college.

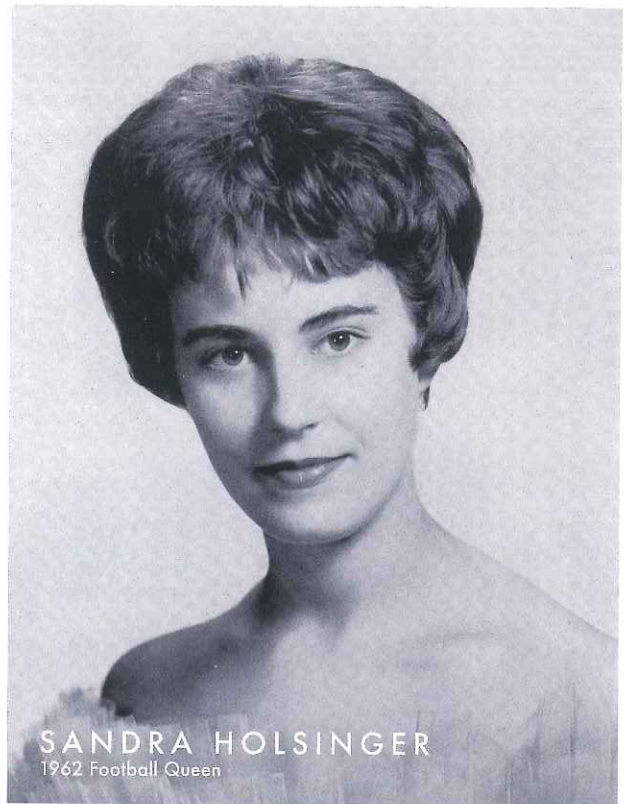
"My dad sold a cow so my brother and I could come to Cameron," Stout says. "I worked in the cafeteria through school. I also graded French papers."

Another difference in the position as time passed was the crowning ceremony. Holsinger was required to attend a homecoming football game where she was crowned during halftime. Stout, on the other hand, was crowned at a building west of Lake Lawtonka with a crown made of construction paper.

Remarking on the material of her crown and its constructing Stout says, "That and whatever else we could find." and laughs. "The (out-going) queens took turns making the crowns for each other."

Holsinger is now married to Preston Holsinger, whom she met at her 40th high school class reunion at Lawton High School. But looking back, she said she still isn't sure how she landed the role of queen.

"I was dating and engaged to one of the boys on the football team," she says. "I'm sure that's how I got to be queen."



Wilma Stout and her daughter Sandy Holsinger both served as Cameron queens during their Aggie days.

He was a real popular guy. I'm sure that really helped me."

Family helped Stout gain her crown. She said her cousins and brother went around campaigning for her around campus, writing her name in chalk on the sidewalks.

Even as time has passed, both women are still proud of the bond they share, but Stout said that in her opinion her daughter has "always been a queen."

- Jacob Russell



BOOSTERS ARE VITAL

They are the supporters behind the scenes, there through the good seasons and the bad.

They give both time and money, yet ask for nothing in return but competitive teams from Aggie's athletic programs, and according to Cameron Associate Athletic Director Kim Vinson, they are an integral part of the programs, with a stake in the team not matched by the student body, faculty or everyday fans.

"The financial component is critical to the success of any program," Vinson says. "But they also place fans in the stands and that can play a tremendous role in the success of a program. The obvious giving is two-fold: financial and through attendance, but they really have a wide spectrum of involvement."

Margie Whitehorse has been in Cameron's booster club, the Gold Club, for more than 20 years. Her love for the Aggie programs began with her previous stint as office manager in the athletic department in the late 1980s.

"I've just always been involved (with the programs)," she says. "Charlie (Whitehorse's husband) graduated from Cameron. We've always been connected."

Being a booster has advantages, according to Whitehorse. She says interaction with the players and coaches allows you to get to know them personally. Getting that personal also develops a bond between the boosters, athletes and coaches.

"It's incredible," Whitehorse says. "You get to see the fulfillment the players get when they win, and how they handle defeat with character. You watch the growth in the athletes. They come in as freshmen, not knowing how to talk to us, then before too long we are all communicating. Then it becomes a family atmosphere."

For as much as the athletic department receives from its boosters, it also gives back. Athletic Director Jim Jackson says the Gold Club has a number of benefits for participants, such as athletic apparel and season ticket discounts, and is looking to offer more.

A 10-member Athletic Advisory Board and a Gold Club Board are both currently in the works. Both are designed to improve relationships between the athletic department and its boosters, giving Aggie supporters an enhanced experience along with their membership.

"We want to find ways to make our meetings more exciting," he says. "We really want to enhance the experience of our boosters."

For more information on the Gold Club, visit www.cameronaggies.com.

- Jacob Russell

CAMERON UNIVERSITY

Every Student. Every Story.

Students are at the heart of Cameron University's mission. Now in its second century, Cameron celebrates the accomplishments of our students.



OLUWATOYESE OYEWOLE

Oluwatoyese Oyewole, a senior finance major from Ibadan, Nigeria, spent the summer as a research intern in the Lawton office of the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center.

"Working at the Small Business Development Center is such a great opportunity for me to give back to this community. At OSBDC, I am part of a team that helps small businesses start. We write business plans, carry out marketing research, and basically work with local entrepreneurs on starting and growing their businesses. We also work with clients in finding small business loans. The experience I am gaining will go a long way in preparing me for a career in investment banking and global economics."

JESSICA LANDOLL

Senior Jessica Landoll of Elgin continues her family legacy of attending Cameron. She is aware of at least six extended family members who attended Cameron. A PLUS scholar with a 4.0 GPA, she is majoring in chemistry and expects to graduate in May.

"After I graduate from Cameron, I'm planning on pursuing a Ph.D. in biochemistry. I enjoy doing research. Dr. Danny McGuire and Dr. Dennis Frisby have given me research opportunities, and I've really enjoyed working with both of them."





LEVI PETTIJOHN

Senior physics major Levi Pettijohn of Marlow has assisted with the Department of Physical Sciences Nanoexplorers Academy, a summer camp for high school students, the past two years. He worked with camp participants as they conducted a variety of experiments and studied the nano-scaled physics of amusement park rides, superconductors and more.

"It was great working with high school students. When I was in high school, I knew I had a lot to learn about chemistry and physics. Now, to be able to share what I've learned at Cameron makes me realize how much I've learned in the past few years."

MONA BEVINGTON

A senior majoring in Biology Education, Mona Bevington created a tree tour for the Museum of the Great Plains last spring. The tour incorporates 20 different species of trees, each selected for their ethnobotanical, economic and/or aesthetic value. The Altus native is a nurse who wants to change careers and become a schoolteacher.

"I enjoyed learning about how each species of tree was originally used by the Native Americans and early settlers. There are a lot of stories about how the trees were incorporated into everyday life – including using bark or leaves for tea, using berries for soaps and medicinal purposes, and using fruit to repel insects. There are fascinating uses, and we need to be reminded of them."



**AT CAMERON UNIVERSITY,
EDUCATION COMES DOWN TO ONE THING:
*Every Student. Every Story.***

A Quarter Century of Supporting Students

It started a quarter century ago with the goal of helping at-risk students have a better chance of success in college.

Now, 25 years and more than 2,000 Cameron University students later, this highly successful program continues to provide needed resources and give students the tools and self-confidence to be able to succeed as they pursue their dream of higher education.

Student Support Services (SSS) supports more than 200 Cameron University students each year. Services provided by SSS include individual tutoring, computer labs, peer mentoring, academic counseling, and individual on-campus labs for math, writing, science and reading. SSS students are given one-on-one counseling to get them in the right classes and help give them the skills and confidence to be able to achieve their goal of an associate or bachelor's degree.

Student Support Services is a federally funded program. Started with limited dollars in the late 1980s, the program has experienced considerable growth. Today, Cameron's SSS program is one of 24 SSS programs at universities across Oklahoma. Cameron's program receives the third

largest amount of funding among SSS programs in the state. Cameron's program has a staff of six (plus four faculty members that operate tutorial labs), which allows staff to get to know each student individually and offer all students the attention they deserve.

"We are able to provide resources to students that need extra help, and because of grant money from the government, we provide these services free of charge," Student Support Services Director Doreen Thomas says. "Many of our students have been made to feel they are not worthwhile. We work to change that impression, give them self-confidence and let them know that if they apply themselves, they can be successful."

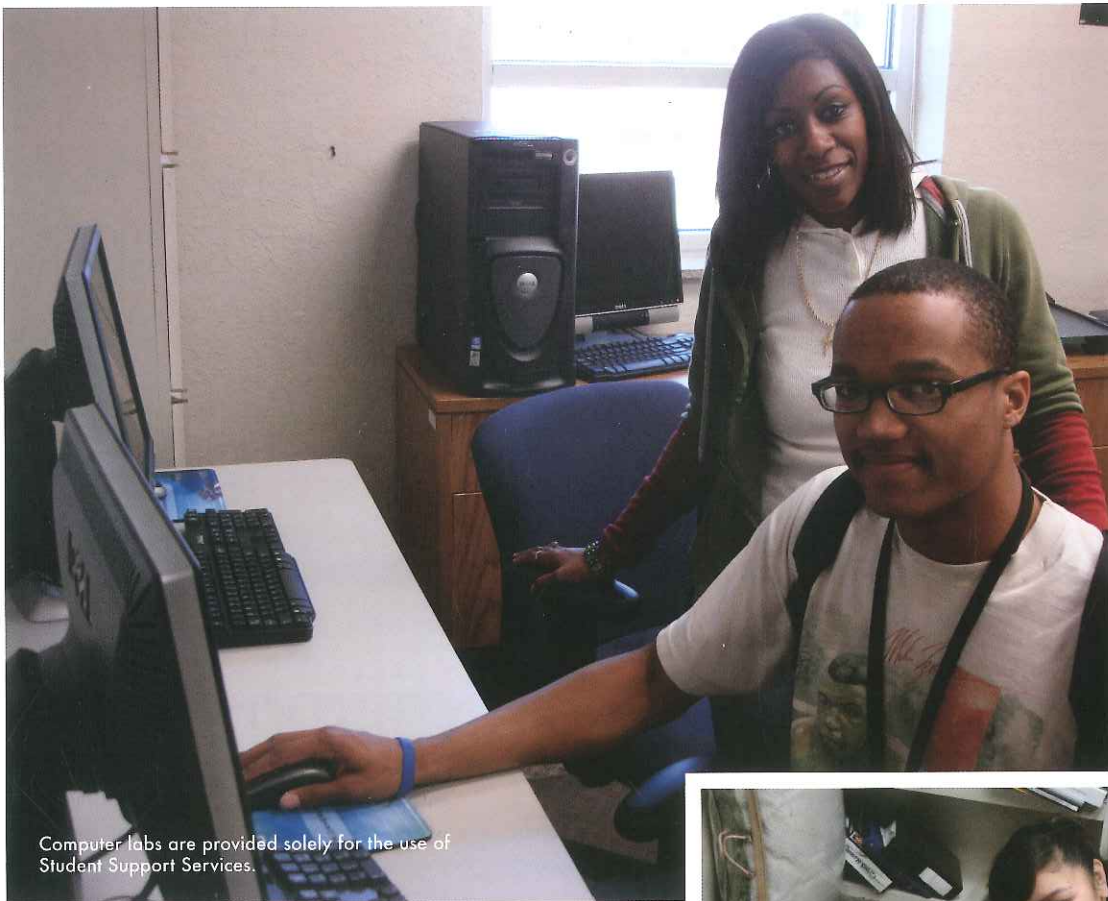
To qualify for the program, students must first have an academic need, such as a low qualifying test score, have received their GED instead of a high school diploma, or speak English as a second language. Second, they must meet one of the following requirements: Be a first-generation member of their family to pursue a four-year degree, meet federal economic guidelines for having an economic need, or have a documented learning or physical disability.



Student Support Services took its annual trip to the state capitol this past spring.

Ann Rollf, a psychology major, learned about Student Support Services while attending orientation in Fall 2009 as a freshman. A single mother of three, Rollf immediately applied for and was accepted into the program, and it made all the difference to her.

"I truly believe that if I didn't have Student Support Services, I don't know that I could have stayed in school that first semester," Rollf says. "They were there to guide me and give me the resources to help me succeed. I was able to do the work, but without the support of SSS, it wouldn't have been possible."



Computer labs are provided solely for the use of Student Support Services.

Pictured Below: Lily the Therapy Dog is available to anyone who needs her services.



One of the keys to giving these at-risk students a better chance at success is understanding their backgrounds, and not just looking at an outcome such as low grades. Student Support Services attempts to get to know each student individually, showing them skills that give them the highest probability of achievement.

“We try to look at the students holistically,” counselor Kay Love says. “While academics are a big part of it, we look at the entire person and all the factors that go into his/her lives. Many of our students have been given difficult circumstances, whether it be a disability or upbringing or something else. We get to know them and can give them a better chance for success.”

Both Thomas and Love are specific examples of what the program can do, as both are Cameron alums and utilized Student Support Services as undergraduates. In fact, Love was a member of the first group of SSS students at CU in the fall of 1987.

“I was a 40-year-old freshman who was visually impaired,” Love said. “As college went on, my vision got worse, and I was totally blind by the time I graduated in 1991. But I graduated with honors because I had Student Support Services. They provided me with a reader and a volunteer tutor. It made all the difference.” Love joined the Student Support Services team in 1992 as a counselor and has been there ever since.

In fact, she is now working with children of previous Student Support Services graduates from earlier in her career.

While not all students who sign up for SSS make it through the program successfully to receive their degree, many of them do. And that makes all the difference for those working with them.

“The most rewarding part of being a part of this program is watching students cross the commencement stage to get their diploma,” Thomas says. “Many of them were kids that either didn’t think they could do it or were told they couldn’t do it. And they did it.”

For more information on Cameron University Student Support Services, go to www.cameron.edu/ssc or call 580-581-2352.

- Josh Lehman



DR. THOMAS LABÉ: MERGING MUSIC & TECHNOLOGY



When students walk into Dr. Thomas Labé's Music History I on the first day of class, they probably anticipate frantically taking notes from a PowerPoint presentation. Imagine their surprise to find that unlike most traditional college classes, this course has its own website. There, they find all the materials that will be presented in class throughout the semester, including audio files, musical scores, links to outside web content, and other resources. Labé, a Professor of Music, has used this course to merge the traditional teaching method of lecture and textbook with a content-rich website that students can reference at their own convenience. He has also developed websites for Music History II and Keyboard Appreciation.

"What I like about this approach is that everything is available all the time," says Dr. Labé. "With PowerPoint, you can put a lot of information on a slide but when you go to the next slide, a lot of students panic."

The course website – a virtual extension of the classroom – allows students to learn at their own pace. Labé calls the development of his course websites an accident.

He initially developed a website for a lecture he was slated to present at a music conference. "Why not build, instead, a website that I could use to present stuff visually at the conference? Then I could fill it up with all kinds of content and give out the URL so people could go back and look at all these things. So I went with that idea, and I really liked it. You can get so much material there. The sky was the limit with how much I could put – sound files, videos, links – and I wouldn't need any sort of handout."

He knew he was onto something and began developing course websites. Each course is password protected so that only students enrolled in the class have access.

"This wouldn't have been feasible say two or three years ago when there was only so much you could put on a web server," Labé says. "But storage capacity has gotten so large now. The other great thing is I can keep changing and adding as time goes by. Because it's web-based, it's pretty easy to make comprehensive changes."

Self-taught in Photoshop and the basics of web design, Labé has honed those skills over the years. "I try each year to add something to that vocabulary," he says.

Adding video editing, flash movies and animation to his skill set, Labé is now the webmaster for the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association and manages the Cameron Department of Music webpages.

Labé has seen a difference in his students' demeanor since first offering the website in 2010. "The students take notes, obviously, but they don't have to panic if they miss something," he explains. "They can go back to everything we cover in class – and they can go further."

- Janet E. Williams



During a three-week concert tour of Taiwan in May, Dr. Thomas Labé spent time with (l to r) Tristi Chan, Ike Chan and Joshan Hung. Tristi Chan and Hung are Cameron graduates, and Ike Chan is now a Cameron student. During his trip, Labé played five recitals, delivered a keynote address and a presentation at a conference, and conducted about a dozen master classes at different universities. He says, "In a way, this trip was a synthesis of all the things I do – playing, teaching, presenting as a scholar at a conference."



Lt. LaTondra Sapp and two of the students she mentored, Yuqi Hou (left) of Lenexa, Kans. and Alex Lichtenstein (center) of Virginia Beach, Virg. during one of the receptions held for the United States Senate Youth Program.



A Commitment to LEADERSHIP & SERVICE:

Last spring, Cameron graduate student Lt. LaTondra Sapp enjoyed what she considers “the experience of a lifetime” when she was one of only three Army officers nationwide selected as a mentor for the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Lt. Sapp’s nomination packet survived intense scrutiny before she was hand-selected from more than 65 outstanding officers submitted by the five armed services. During the program, she mentored six high school students in an intense week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it.

“I felt overwhelmed but qualified to be in the presence of each student delegate,” says Lt. Sapp. “As a mentor, I continuously volunteer my efforts to help demonstrate civic duty to youth and help shape their goals and dreams. I’m proud to support the education of such students whose endeavors are endless, although attainable.”

In 1962, the USSYP was established to help instill within each class of student delegates a more profound knowledge of the American political process and a lifelong commitment to public service.

“It was an honor for me to serve as a role model for this impressionable group of American citizens who, more and more, tend to have little or no experience with military personnel or military-related national security issues,” says

Sapp, who mentored students from Oregon, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Kansas, Iowa and Wyoming.

“I was stunned by the intelligence of the student delegates, who expressed themselves flawlessly about politics, humanity and service for their country and made me proud to be a part of the program.”

Lt. Sapp and her student delegates heard major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense and directors of federal agencies, as well as participated in a meeting with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Each session with elected officials included an in-depth question and answer period.

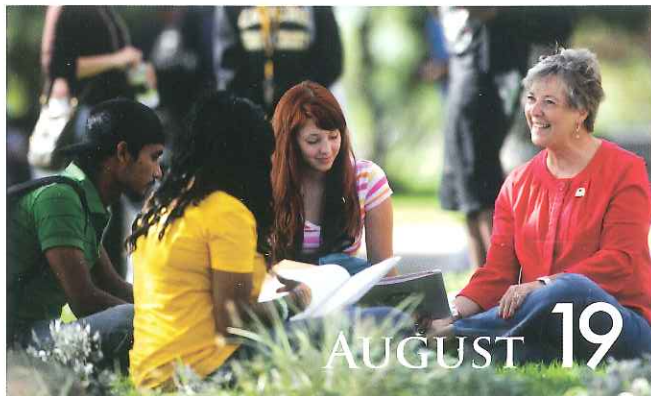
“The politicians gave a clear and concise statement of who they were, their position, responsibility and how we as people can make a difference in the decisions that are decided upon in our country,” explains Lt. Sapp. “The students and I realized that politics play a vital role in our everyday lives and how we express our viewpoints, a direct reflection based on our knowledge of national, state and local politics.”

Lt. Sapp is pursuing a Master of Science degree in Behavioral Sciences.

- Monica Wood



Calendar of Events All dates and times are subject to change.



AUGUST

19 Classes begin

20 Aggie Orientation

12:30 p.m. Registration outside of Aggie Gym

30 Academic Festival "Afghanistan: Its Complexities and Relevance" presents Dr. Khaled Hosseini

7:30 p.m. University Theatre *Afghanistan*

SEPTEMBER

9 Magic Lantern Film Society presents "Fort Apache"

7:30 p.m. CETES Conference Center B

19 Constitution Day Celebration

29 Academic Festival "Afghanistan: Its Complexities and Relevance" presents Steve Coll

7:30 p.m. University Theatre *Afghanistan*

30 Visiting Writer's Series presents Dennis Covington

7 p.m. Centennial Room, Shepler Center

30 Magic Lantern Film Society presents "Pepe Le Moko"

7:30 p.m. CETES Conference Center B

OCTOBER

6 Graduate Studies Preview Night

6 p.m. McMahon Centennial Complex

6-8 "Masterpieces"

Th-Fr-Sa @ 7:30 p.m., Su @ 2 p.m. Studio Theatre

7 Public Policy Forum VI: Water Politics

9 a.m. CETES Conference Center

7 India Night

6 p.m. McCasland Ballroom

14 Convocation

10 a.m. Fine Arts Courtyard

14 International Student Scholarship Banquet

6 p.m. McCasland Ballroom

14 Choir/Centennial Singers Concert

7:30 p.m. University Theatre

16 Cameron/Lawton Community Band Concert

3 p.m. University Theatre

18 Diversity Celebration

11 a.m. Cameron Park

20-21 Fall Break

21 Magic Lantern Film Society presents "Gogira" and "The Wrong Box"

6:30 p.m. CETES Conference Center B

25 Percussion Ensemble Children's Concert

10 a.m. University Theatre

25 Percussion Ensemble Concert

7:30 p.m. University Theatre

26 Academic Festival "Afghanistan: Its Complexities and Relevance" presents Chuck Hagel

7:30 p.m. University Theatre *Afghanistan*

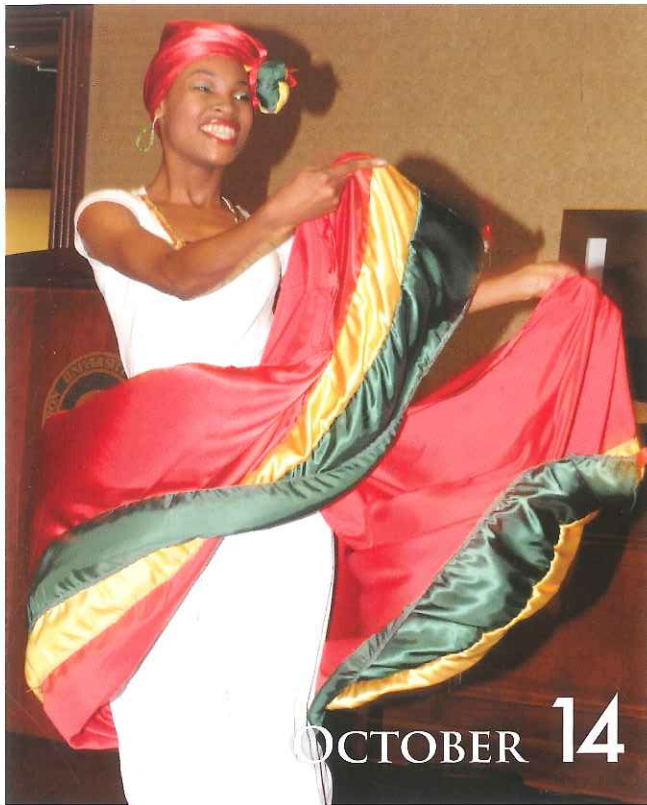
29 Aggie Sneak Peek

9 a.m. McCasland Ballroom



For Aggie Athletics schedules, go to cameronaggies.com or scan with a smart phone.

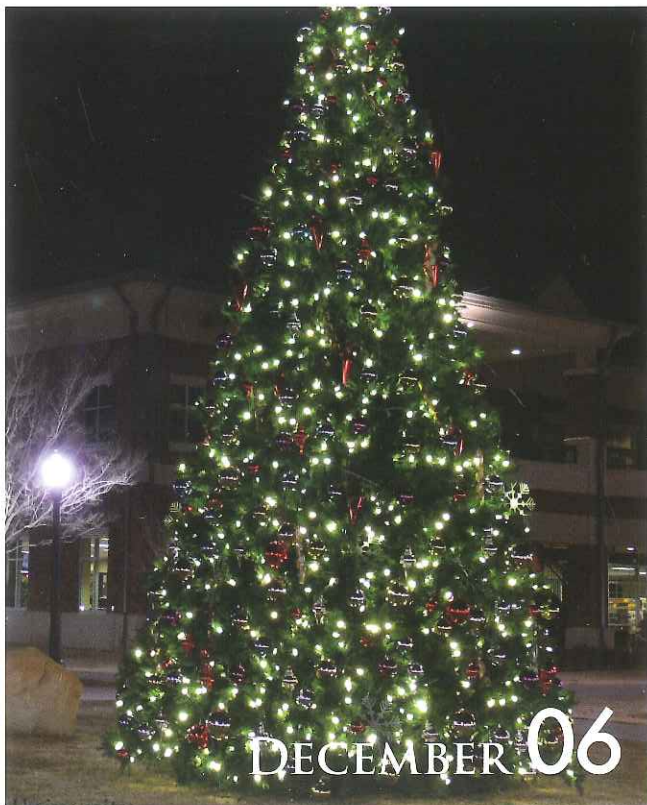




NOVEMBER

- 4 Oklahoma Research Day**
8:30 a.m. Registration at CETES Conference Center
- 4 Visiting Writer's Series presents Jeanetta Calhoun Mish**
7 p.m. Cameron Exchange
- 17 Artist Lecture featuring Don Sibley**
6:30 p.m. CETES Conference Center
- 17-19 "The Great Game"**
Th-Fr-Sa @ 7:30 p.m., Su @ 2 p.m. Studio Theatre
- 18 Magic Lantern Film Society presents "A Place In The Sun"**
7:30 p.m. CETES Conference Center B

DECEMBER



- 1 Concert Band/CU Jazz Ensemble Concert**
7:30 p.m. University Theatre
- 1 CU@SC: Victorian Tea with Dr. Vivian Thomlinson**
5 p.m. Simmons Center, Duncan
- 5 Tree Lighting**
6 p.m. CU-Duncan
- 6 Tree Lighting**
6 p.m. Lawton
- 6 Concert Choir/Centennial Singers Concert**
7:30 p.m. University Theatre
- 9 Magic Lantern Film Society presents "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"**
7:30 p.m. CETES Conference Center B
- 22-Jan 2 Closed for holiday season**

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